

What is claimed is:

1. A system for maintaining a plurality of lists, each of said lists being associated with one of a plurality of users and including one or more items desired by the user associated with the list, comprising:

5 a server for receiving data relating to said one or more desired items over an electronic network from each of said plurality of users;

a data storage device coupled to said server for retrievably storing said data relating to said one or more desired items received from each of said plurality of users;

10 said server, in response to a request from one of said users, causing a list window to open on a client device under the control of said one of said users, said list window being adapted to display a listing of said one or more desired items included on the list associated with said one of said users;

15 said server providing said client device with instructions executable by said client device, said instructions, when executed in response to a request from said one of said users to add to the list associated with said one of said users an item shown in a web page being displayed in a first window on said client device, causing said client device to copy a uniform resource locator used to identify said web page from said web page to said list window.

20 2. A system according to claim 1, wherein when said client device is displaying a plurality of windows, said instructions cause said client device to request said user to choose said first window from a listing of said plurality of windows.

3. A system according to claim 2, wherein said listing of said plurality of windows comprises a list of uniform resource locators.

4. A system according to claim 1, wherein said server is adapted to authenticate said one of said users prior to causing said list window to open on said client device.

5. A system according to claim 1, wherein said client device is adapted to enable said one of said users to input additional information relating to said item shown in said web page into said list window.

6. A system according to claim 5, wherein said client device is adapted to transmit said uniform resource locator and said additional information relating to said item shown in said web page to said server.

7. A system according to claim 6, wherein said data storage device comprises a relational database having a first table having a plurality of first records, each of said first records being associated with one of said lists, and a second table having a plurality of second records, each of said second records being associated with one of said desired items.

8. A system according to claim 7, wherein after said uniform resource locator and said information relating to said item shown in said web page are received by said server, a new second record including said uniform resource locator and said additional information relating to said item shown in said web page is created.

9. A system according to claim 1, wherein said server, in response to a request from a requesting party, causes a second list window to open on one of a client device and a kiosk under the control of said requesting party, said second list window being adapted to display a listing of said one or more items included on the list associated with a selected one of said users.

10. A system according to claim 9, wherein information may not be added to or deleted from said second list window by said requesting party.

11. A system according to claim 9, wherein said listing displayed in said second list window includes selected portions of said data relating to said one or more desired items stored in said data storage device.

12. A system according to claim 11, wherein said selected portions of said data include one or more uniform resource locators.

13. A system for maintaining a plurality of lists, each of said lists being associated with one of a plurality of users and including one or more items desired by the user associated with the list, comprising:

a server for receiving data relating to said one or more desired items over an electronic network from each of said plurality of users;

a data storage device coupled to said server for retrievably storing said data relating to said one or more desired items received from each of said plurality of users;

said server, in response to a request from one of said users, causing a list window to open on a client device under the control of said one of said users, said list window being adapted to display a listing of said one or more desired items included on the list associated with said one of said users;

5 said server providing said client device with instructions executable by said client device, said instructions, when executed in response to a request from said one of said users to add to the list associated with said one of said users an item shown in a web page having a known template structure being displayed in a first window on said client device, causing said client device to:

- (i) locate certain preselected information in the web page based on said known template structure; and
- (ii) copy said preselected information from said web page to said list window.

14. A system according to claim 13, wherein when said client device is displaying a plurality of windows, said instructions cause said client device to request said user to choose said first window from a listing of said plurality of windows.

15. A system according to claim 14, wherein said listing of said plurality of windows comprises a list of uniform resource locators.

16. A system according to claim 13, wherein said server is adapted to authenticate said one of said users prior to causing said list window to open on said client device.

17. A system according to claim 13, wherein said preselected information comprises one or more of a uniform resource locator used to identify said web page, a price of said item shown in said web page, and a description of said item shown in said web page.

5 18. A system according to claim 13, wherein said client device is adapted to enable said one of said users to input additional information relating to said item shown in said web page into said list window.

19. A system according to claim 18, wherein said client device is adapted to transmit said preselected information and said additional information to said server.

20. A system according to claim 19, wherein said data storage device comprises a relational database having a first table having a plurality of first records, each of said first records being associated with one of said lists, and a second table having a plurality of second records, each of said second records being associated with one of said desired items.

21. A system according to claim 20, wherein after said preselected information and said additional information are received by said server, a new second record including said preselected information and said additional information is created.

22. A system according to claim 13, wherein said server, in response to a request from a requesting party, causes a second list window to open on one of a client device and a kiosk under the control of said requesting party, said second list window being adapted to display

a listing of said one or more items included on the list associated with a selected one of said users.

23. A system according to claim 22, wherein information may not be added to or
5 deleted from said second list window by said requesting party.

24. A system according to claim 22, wherein said listing displayed in said second list window includes selected portions of said data relating to said one or more desired items stored in said data storage device.

25. A system according to claim 24, wherein said selected portions of said data include one or more uniform resource locators.

26. A system for maintaining a plurality of lists, each of said lists being associated with one of a plurality of users and including one or more items desired by the user associated with the list, comprising:

a server for receiving data relating to said one or more desired items over an electronic network from each of said plurality of users;

a data storage device coupled to said server for retrievably storing said
20 data relating to said one or more desired items received from each of said plurality of users;

said server, in response to a request from one of said users, causing a list window to open on a client device under the control of said one of said users, said list window

being adapted to display a listing of said one or more desired items included on the list associated with said one of said users;

said server providing said client device with instructions executable by said client device, said instructions, when executed in response to a request from said one of said users to add to the list associated with said one of said users an item shown in a web page being displayed in a first window on said client device, causing said client device to:

- (i) search said web page for one or more preselected patterns of information contained in said web page; and
- (ii) when said one or more preselected patterns of information are found, copy certain preselected information associated with said one or more preselected patterns of information from said web page to said list window.

27. A system according to claim 26, wherein when said client device is displaying a plurality of windows, said instructions cause said client device to request said user to choose said first window from a listing of said plurality of windows.

28. A system according to claim 27, wherein said listing comprises a list of uniform resource locators.

29. A system according to claim 26, wherein said server is adapted to authenticate said one of said users prior to causing said list window to open on said client device.

30. A system according to claim 26, wherein said preselected patterns of information comprise one or more of a dollar sign followed by first text information and a body of second text information located in a center portion of said web page.

5 31. A system according to claim 30, wherein said preselected information comprises said first and second text information, and wherein said first text information relates to a price of said item shown in said web page and said second text information relates to a description of said item shown in said web page.

10 32. A system according to claim 26, wherein said client device is adapted to enable said one of said users to input additional information relating to said item shown in said web page into said list window.

15 33. A system according to claim 32, wherein said client device is adapted to transmit said preselected information and said additional information to said server.

20 34. A system according to claim 33, wherein said data storage device comprises a relational database having a first table having a plurality of first records, each of said first records being associated with one of said lists, and a second table having a plurality of second records, each of said second records being associated with one of said desired items.

35. A system according to claim 34, wherein after said preselected information and said additional information are received by said server, a new second record including said preselected information and said additional information is created.

5 36. A system according to claim 26, wherein said server, in response to a request from a requesting party, causes a second list window to open on one of a client device and a kiosk under the control of said requesting party, said second list window being adapted to display a listing of said one or more items included on the list associated with a selected one of said users.

37. A system according to claim 36, wherein information may not be added to or deleted from said second list window by said requesting party.

38. A system according to claim 36, wherein said listing displayed in said second list window includes selected portions of said data relating to said one or more desired items stored in said data storage device.

39. A system according to claim 38, wherein said selected portions of said data include one or more uniform resource locators.

20 40. A system for maintaining a plurality of lists, each of said lists being associated with one of a plurality of users and including one or more items desired by the user associated with the list, comprising:

a server for receiving data relating to said one or more desired items over an electronic network from each of said plurality of users;

a data storage device coupled to said server for retrievably storing said data relating to said one or more desired items received from each of said plurality of users;

5 said server, in response to a request from one of said users, causing a list window to open on a client device under the control of said one of said users, said list window being adapted to display a listing of said one or more desired items included on the list associated with said one of said users;

10 said server providing said client device with instructions executable by said client device, said instructions, when executed in response to a request from said one of said users to add to the list associated with said one of said users an item shown in a web page being displayed in a first window on said client device, causing said client device to copy a uniform resource locator used to identify said web page from said web page and transmit said uniform resource locator to said server;

15 said server storing instructions that, upon receipt of said uniform resource locator, cause said server to:

- 20 (i) determine whether said web page has a known template structure;
- (ii) if said web page has a known template structure, access said web page using said uniform resource locator and locate certain preselected information in said web page based on said known template structure; and

- (iii) copy said preselected information from said web page and store said preselected information in said data storage device.

5 41. A system according to claim 40, wherein said data storage device comprises a relational database having a first table having a plurality of first records, each of said first records being associated with one of said lists, and a second table having a plurality of second records, each of said second records being associated with one of said desired items.

10 42. A system according to claim 41, wherein when said preselected information is stored in said data storage device, a new second record including said preselected information is created.

15 43. A system according to claim 42, wherein said new second record also includes said uniform resource locator.

20 44. A system according to claim 43, wherein after said preselected information is stored in said database, said server causes said list window to display said uniform resource locator and said preselected information.

 45. A system according to claim 44, wherein said server causes said list window to display said uniform resource locator and preselected information in response to said one of said users performing a refresh function on said client device.

46. A system according to claim 40, wherein said preselected information comprises one or more of a uniform resource locator used to identify said web page, a price of said item shown in said web page, and a description of said item shown in said web page.

5

47. A system according to claim 40, wherein if said web page does not have a known template structure, said instructions cause said server to:

- (i) access said web page using said uniform resource locator and search said web page for one or more preselected patterns of information contained in said web page; and
- (ii) when said one or more preselected patterns of information are found, copy certain preselected second information associated with said one or more preselected patterns of information from said web page and store said preselected second information in said data storage device.

48. A system according to claim 47, wherein said data storage device comprises a relational database having a first table having a plurality of first records, each of said first records being associated with one of said lists, and a second table having a plurality of second records, each of said second records being associated with one of said desired items.

49. A system according to claim 48, wherein when one of said preselected information and said preselected second information is stored in said data storage device, a new

second record including said one of said preselected information and said pre-selected second information is created.

50. A system according to claim 49, wherein said new second record also includes
5 said uniform resource locator.

51. A system according to claim 47, said server causing said list window to display said uniform resource locator and one of said preselected information and said preselected second information.

52. A system according to claim 47, wherein said preselected patterns of information comprise one or more of a dollar sign followed by first text information and a body of second text information located in a center portion of said web page.

53. A system according to claim 52, wherein said preselected second information comprises said first and second text information, and wherein said first text information relates to a price of said item shown in said web page and said second text information relates to a description of said item shown in said web page.

20 54. A method of detecting and fixing non-functioning uniform resource locators in a database having a plurality of uniform resource locators, comprising the steps of:

(a) making an HTTP request using a selected one of said uniform resource locators;

(b) determining whether an error message is received in response to said request;

(c) if an error message is received, determining whether a web site identified by said selected one of said uniform resource locators has been previously analyzed to obtain information relating to the structure of uniform resource locators associated with the web site;

(d) if the web site has been previously analyzed, determining whether the web site is down;

(e) if said web site is determined to not be down, manipulating said selected one of said uniform resource locators based on the information relating to the structure of the uniform resource locators associated with the web site to form a manipulated uniform resource locator conforming to said structure; and

(f) replacing in said database said selected one of said uniform resource locators with said manipulated uniform resource locator;

wherein steps (a) through (f) are repeated for a preselected group of said uniform resource locators.

55. A method according to claim 54, wherein said preselected group of said uniform resource locators comprises all of said uniform resource locators.

56. A method according to claim 54, wherein said preselected group of said uniform resource locators comprises one or more of said uniform resource locators associated with one or more predetermined web sites.

57. A method according to claim 54, wherein said information relating to said structure comprises the use of one or more particular identifiers.

58. A method according to claim 54, wherein said information relating to said structure comprises the use of session level dependencies.

59. A method of fixing a non-functioning uniform resource locator stored in a database, said non-functioning uniform resource locator being associated with a web site that has been analyzed to obtain information relating to the structure of uniform resource locators associated with the web site, comprising the steps of:

manipulating the non-functioning uniform resource locator based on said information relating to said structure using at least one of information taken from said non-functioning uniform resource locator and information associated with said non-functioning uniform resource locator stored in said database to form a manipulated uniform resource locator conforming with said structure; and

replacing in said database said non-functioning uniform resource locator with said manipulated uniform resource locator.

60. A method according to claim 59, wherein said information relating to said structure comprises the use of one or more particular identifiers.

61. A method according to claim 59, wherein said information relating to said structure comprise the use of session level dependencies.

62. A method of detecting and fixing non-functioning uniform resource locators in a database having a plurality of uniform resource locators, comprising the steps of:

- (a) making an HTTP request using a selected one of said uniform resource locators;
- (b) determining whether an error message is received in response to said request;
- (c) if an error message is received, determining whether a web site identified by said selected one of said uniform resource locators is down;
- (d) if said web site is determined to not be down, progressively creating one or more modified uniform resource locators, wherein a first modified uniform resource locator is created by removing a directory from said selected one of said uniform resource locators and wherein each next modified uniform resource locator is created by removing a directory from a corresponding previous modified uniform resource locator; and
- (e) making, after each said modified uniform resource locator is created, an HTTP request using said modified uniform resource locator and determining whether an error message is received in response to said request, wherein if an error message is not received, said creating step terminates and said selected one of said uniform resource locators is replaced in said database by the modified uniform locator for which an error message was not received;

wherein steps (a) through (e) are repeated for a preselected group of said uniform resource locators.

63. A method according to claim 62, wherein said preselected group of said uniform resource locators comprises all of said uniform resource locators.

64. A method according to claim 62, wherein said preselected group of said uniform resource locators comprises one or more of said uniform resource locators associated with one or more predetermined web sites.

65. A method of fixing a non-functioning uniform resource locator stored in a database, comprising the steps of:

progressively creating one or more modified uniform resource locators, wherein a first modified uniform resource locator is created by removing a directory from said uniform resource locator and wherein each next modified uniform resource locator is created by removing a directory from a corresponding previous modified uniform resource locator; and

making, after each said modified uniform resource locator is created, an HTTP request using said modified uniform resource locator and determining whether an error message is received in response to said request, wherein if an error message is not received, said creating step terminates and said uniform resource locator is replaced in said database by the modified uniform resource locator for which an error message was not received.

66. In an item registry system maintained by a system provider, said system maintaining a plurality of lists, each of said lists being associated with one of a plurality of users and including one or more items desired by the associated user, a method of sharing revenue from the sale of said desired items among said system provider and one or more of a plurality of sellers affiliated with said system provider, comprising the steps of:

receiving and storing data relating to said desired items from said users over an electronic network when said desired items are added to said lists by said users, said data for each of said desired items including an identification of a first seller credited with enticing said user to add said desired item to said user's list;

making said lists available to said users and a plurality of third parties over said electronic network;

receiving and storing data relating to a purchase of one of said desired items from a second seller; and

determining whether said second seller is one of said affiliated sellers;

wherein if said second seller is one of said affiliated sellers, said second seller pays:

- (i) a first fee to said system provider, and
- (ii) a second fee to said first seller if said first seller is different from said second seller and if said first seller is one of said affiliated sellers.

67. A system for creating and maintaining a plurality of lists, each of said lists being associated with one of a plurality of users and including one or more items desired by the user associated with the list, comprising:

5 a plurality of client devices for collecting data relating to said desired items, said client devices being connected to an electronic network;

a plurality of kiosks for collecting data relating to said desired items, each of said kiosks being located at or near a merchant location and being connected to said electronic network;

10 a server for receiving said data relating to said desired items from said client devices and kiosks over said electronic network; and

a data storage device coupled to said server for retrievably storing information relating to said desired items, said information including said data relating to said desired items;

15 wherein said server, in response to a request to view a selected one of said lists associated with a selected one of said users received over said electronic network from a requesting party, retrieves from said storage device selected pieces of said information relating to said desired items that comprise information relating to the desired items included on said selected one of said lists and transmits said selected pieces of information to said requesting party over said
20 electronic network.

68. A system according to claim 67, wherein said request originates from a client device under the control of said requesting party.

69. A system according to claim 68, wherein said server transmits said selected pieces of information to said requesting party by causing a list window to open on said client device under the control of said requesting party, said list window being adapted to display a listing of said desired items included on said selected one of said lists.

5

70. A system according to claim 69, wherein said selected pieces of information include one or more uniform resource locators, each of said uniform resource locators being associated with one of said desired items included on said selected one of said lists and wherein said listing includes one or more hyperlinks comprising said one or more uniform resource locators.

71. A system according to claim 67, further comprising a plurality of bar code scanners for collecting at one of said merchant locations bar code information relating to one or more of said desired items, said bar code scanners being adapted to download said bar code information to the kiosk located at or near said one of said merchant locations.

72. A system according to claim 71, wherein the kiosk located at or near said one of said merchant locations is adapted to translate said bar code information into item parameter information, said data relating to said one or more of said desired items comprising said item parameter information.

73. A system according to claim 71, wherein said data relating to said one or more of said desired items comprises said bar code information, wherein said server is adapted to translate

said bar code information into item parameter information, said information relating to said one or more of said desired items stored by said storage device including said item parameter information.

74. A system according to claim 67, further comprising a plurality of bar code scanners
5 for collecting bar code information relating to one or more of said desired items, each of said bar code scanners being adapted to download said bar code information to one or more of said client devices; wherein said data relating to said one or more of said desired items comprises said bar code information, and wherein said server is adapted to translate said bar code information to item parameter information, said information relating to said one or more of said desired items stored by
10 said storage device including said item parameter information.

75. A system according to claim 1, said server further causing an icon to appear on said client device when said list window is obstructed, wherein activation of said icon causes said list window to become unobstructed.

76. A system according to claim 75, said request to add an item comprises activation of said icon.

77. A system according to claim 13, said server further causing an icon to appear on
20 said client device when said list window is obstructed, wherein activation of said icon causes said list window to become unobstructed.

78. A system according to claim 77, said request to add an item comprises activation of said icon.

79. A system according to claim 26, said server further causing an icon to appear on said client device when said list window is obstructed, wherein activation of said icon causes said list window to become unobstructed.

80. A system according to claim 79, said request to add an item comprises activation of said icon.

81. A system according to claim 40, said server further causing an icon to appear on said client device when said list window is obstructed, wherein activation of said icon causes said list window to become unobstructed.

82. A system according to claim 81, said request to add an item comprises activation of said icon.

83. A system according to claim 47, said server further causing an icon to appear on said client device when said list window is obstructed, wherein activation of said icon causes said list window to become unobstructed.

84. A system according to claim 83, said request to add an item comprises activation of said icon.